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**CITRUS HEIGHTS MAN SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IN PRISON
FOR POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that JOSEPH ALAN MANUEL, 26, of Citrus Heights, was sentenced today by United States District Judge David F. Levi to five years imprisonment for possessing child pornography. The defendant pleaded guilty before Judge Levi on February 23, 2005. As part of his plea, the defendant forfeited his interest in his desktop computer.

The case was investigated by the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force of the Sacramento Valley Hi-Tech Crimes Task Force.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Camil A. Skipper, who prosecuted the case, the defendant admitted that he possessed over 900 image files containing depictions of minors, including infants, involved in sexually explicit conduct. In sentencing the defendant, Judge Levi found that an upward departure was appropriate based on the quantity and nature of the child pornography involved in the case, as well as indications that the defendant was reaching out to meet young girls. Five years imprisonment was the maximum sentence available under the statute.

Following his release from custody, the defendant will serve three years on supervised release and will be required to register as a sex offender.

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